

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system comprising:  
a mail server for receiving and storing a mail, to which a voice file is attached, through a network;

a plurality of computers for receiving the mail from said mail server through said network;

a file communication apparatus for receiving the voice file through said network; and

a plurality of telephone sets connected to said file communication apparatus, each of said telephone sets being disposed in correspondence with one of said computers,

wherein said communication apparatus includes:

management means for storing information about a corresponding relationship between telephone numbers of said telephone sets and network addresses of said computers;

receiving means for receiving the network address and the voice file which are transmitted from one of said computers;

storing means for storing the voice file received by said receiving means;

conversion means for converting the stored voice file into a voice signal;

transmitting means for transmitting the voice signal; and

09352043-054004

2. A communication system according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls said transmitting means to start transmitting the voice signal to said telephone set by receiving a first predetermined signal from said telephone set after transmitting a second predetermined signal to said telephone set.

said telephone set has a speaker in a main portion of said telephone set; and

said control means controls said transmitting means to transmit the voice signal to said telephone set by receiving a request signal from said computer, so that said telephone set outputs sound of the voice signal from said speaker.

4. A communication system according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls said transmitting means to retransmit the voice signal to said telephone set by receiving a predetermined signal from said telephone set during transmission of the voice signal by said transmitting means or after transmitting the voice signal.

5. A communication system according to claim 1, wherein said control means deletes the voice file stored in said storing means, by receiving a predetermined signal from said telephone set.

6. A file communication apparatus capable of receiving a voice file through a network, comprising:  
management means for storing information about a corresponding relationship between a telephone number of a telephone set and a network address of a computer;

receiving means for receiving the network address and the voice file which are transmitted from said computer;

storing means for storing the received voice file;

conversion means for converting the stored voice file into a voice signal;

transmitting means for transmitting the voice signal; and

control means for obtaining the telephone number corresponding to the received network address based on the relationship in said management means, and for controlling said transmitting means to transmit the voice signal to said telephone set corresponding to the obtained telephone number.

7. A communication system according to claim 6, wherein said control means controls said transmitting means to start transmitting the voice signal to said

09852013 051001

telephone set by receiving a first predetermined signal from said telephone set after transmitting a second predetermined signal to said telephone set.

8. A communication system according to claim 6, wherein

said telephone set has a speaker in a main portion of said telephone set; and

said control means controls said transmitting means to transmit the voice signal to said telephone set by receiving a request signal from said computer, so that said telephone set outputs sound of the voice signal from said speaker.

9. A communication system according to claim 6, wherein said control means controls said transmitting means to retransmit the voice signal to said telephone set by receiving a predetermined signal from said telephone set during transmission of the voice signal by said transmitting means or after transmitting the voice signal.

10. A communication system according to claim 6, wherein said control means deletes the voice file stored in said storing means, by receiving a predetermined signal from said telephone set.

11. A file communication unit comprising;  
a telephone set;

receiving means for receiving a voice file through a network;

storing means for storing the received voice

09852013-051001

file;

conversion means for converting the stored voice file into a voice signal;

request means for transmitting a signal for requesting to connect a telephone line to said telephone set, to said telephone set by receiving the voice file;

transmitting means for transmitting the converted voice signal to said telephone set; and

control means for controlling said transmitting means to transmit the voice signal to said telephone set by receiving a predetermined signal from said telephone set.

12. A communication system according to claim 11, wherein said control means controls said transmitting means to start transmitting the voice signal to said telephone set by receiving a first predetermined signal from said telephone set after transmitting a second predetermined signal to said telephone set.

13. A communication system according to claim 11, wherein

said telephone set has a speaker in a main portion of said telephone set; and

said control means controls said transmitting means to transmit the voice signal to said telephone set by receiving a request signal from said computer, so that said telephone set outputs sound of the voice signal from said speaker.

00652043 051001

14. A communication system according to claim 11, wherein said control means controls said transmitting means to retransmit the voice signal to said telephone set by receiving a predetermined signal from said telephone set during transmission of the voice signal by said transmitting means or after transmitting the voice signal.

15. A communication system according to claim 11, wherein said control means deletes the voice file stored in said storing means, by receiving a predetermined signal from said telephone set.

0052013 051001